

**Idaho State University**  
**Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP)**

**S T R A T E G I C   P L A N**

May 2007

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The **Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP)** serves as Idaho's state-assisted route of access for dental education. The Program is a cooperative effort of Creighton University's School of Dentistry in Omaha, Nebraska and Idaho State University's Kasiska College of Health Professions in Pocatello, Idaho. The program involves a decentralized first year of education taught at Idaho State University (ISU) and second through fourth years taught at Creighton University. The first year curriculum at ISU has been carefully constructed to be equivalent with the first year curriculum at Creighton. The first year courses are primarily basic science and introductory dental science courses. The second-fourth years are comprised of the regular Creighton curriculum, with elective clinical experiences available in Idaho. Creighton University is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The IDEP program is a recognized satellite program of Creighton University's School of Dentistry and is accredited in conjunction with the School of Dentistry.

The Idaho Dental Education Program is designed to provide residents of Idaho with ready access to a high quality education. There are eight positions in each year's entering class which are reserved exclusively for Idaho residents. The number of positions available in the program is subject to change by the Idaho Legislature.

## **VISION**

The Idaho Dental Education Program is designed to provide Idaho with outstanding dental professionals through a combination of adequate access for residents and the high quality of education provided. The graduates of the Idaho Dental Education Program will possess the ability to practice today's dentistry at its finest. Furthermore, they will have the background to evaluate changes and future treatment methods as they relate to provision of outstanding patient care.

The Idaho Dental Education Program is managed so that it fulfills its mission and vision in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This management style compliments the design of the program and provides the best value for the citizens of Idaho who fund the program.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Mission of the Idaho Dental Education Program is to provide Idaho residents with access to superb educational opportunities in the field of dentistry.*

## **GOALS OF THE IDAHO DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP Program) serves as the sole route of state supported dental education for residents of Idaho. The IDEP program has been consistent in adhering to the mission statement by fulfilling the following goals:

1. Provide access to a quality dental education for qualified Idaho residents.
2. Maintain some control over the rising costs of dental education.
3. Serve as a mechanism for responding to present and/or anticipated maldistribution of dental personnel in Idaho.
4. Provide access for dental professionals to facilities, equipment, and resources to update and maintain professional skills.

## **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

The following performance standards are designed to permit measurement of the IDEP program's effectiveness in achieving the goals enumerated above and thus, relate to the program's efficacy in fulfilling its mission statement. The measurements for each performance standard as outlined below are indicated in the Program Analysis section.

### **Goal 1-Adequate Access**

**Standard A.** Maintain a contract with an accredited dental school to provide guaranteed access for the prescribed number of Idaho Residents. An accredited school is required for students who participate to be eligible for licensure and practice in Idaho and any other state.

**Standard B.** The contracted dental school will have average national board examination scores above 70% (passing) on both Parts I and II of the Dental National Boards. If a school were unable to produce students who could not achieve a minimal level of didactic competency, it would not serve the needs of the citizens of Idaho.

**Standard C.** The contracted dental school will have a curriculum which permits the IDEP graduates to achieve a first time pass rate on the Western Regional Board Examination or Central Regional Dental Testing Service (a prerequisite to dental licensure in Idaho) which exceeds 90%. The average first time pass rate is a good indication of clinical competency of a particular dental curriculum and its faculty and facility.

### **Goal 2-Cost Control**

**Standard A.** The state cost per student will be less than 50% of the national average state costs per DDSE (DDS Equivalent). The cost per DDSE is a commonly utilized measure to evaluate the relative cost of a dental education program.

### **Goal 3-Dental Personnel Distribution**

**Standard A.** The program will provide acceptance opportunities to qualified residents in proportion to the geoeconomic regions of Idaho. Idaho's distinct geoeconomic regions have individual needs from the dental personnel sector. As a program which serves the entire state, it is the responsibility of the program to assure that all regions are represented.

**Standard B.** The program will maintain return rates for students (of those in private practice) which average more than 50% and with a normal distribution in relation to:

- i) the geoeconomic regions of Idaho
- ii) national specialist to generalist ratios
- iii) rural to urban populations

The dental education system needs to be responsive to the needs of a variety of sectors in the practice of dentistry. Selection of these factors represents a balance of needs among those sectors which best benefit the residents of Idaho.

### **Goal 4-Dental Personnel Advanced and Continuing Education**

**Standard A.** The program will provide at least one continuing education opportunity each year which can be best offered by the unique faculty and facilities available through Idaho State University and the Idaho Dental Education Program. There is a wide variety of educational opportunities available to Idaho practitioners, but there are still areas or niches of areas which the IDEP program can help fulfill.

**Standard B.** The Program cooperates with the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program. The "Idaho Advanced General Dentistry Program" began its inaugural year July 1, 2000.

## **PROGRAM ANALYSIS**

Each of the standards for the goals listed in the Performance Standards section of the strategic plan permit analysis by listing a desired outcome result (example: a contract in force as listed in Goal 1, Standard A.) or, by citation of a particular number, percentage or expenditure (example: a 71% cumulative return rate for former IDEP students who are in private practice in FY 2006 as listed in Goal 3, Standard B.) in the appropriate category.

Under the current operation and conditions the program has been able to meet or exceed all of the goals and standards for all fiscal years with the exception of Goal 4, Standard

A. That goal and standard was not met for FY 2006 but will be met for FY 2007 and is expected to be met in future reporting periods.

### **PERFORMANCE RESULTS AND EFFECTS**

The Idaho Dental Education Program has provided Idaho's residents with the opportunity to access dental education as if Idaho had their own dental school. The program has been able to provide that level of access without incurring cost similar to development and funding of an in-state dental school. The program's participants have returned to Idaho to practice dentistry in acceptable numbers and have provided practicing dentists with the opportunity to participate in continuing education programming.

One of the objectives of the program is to continue to provide the positive effects for the citizens of Idaho which it has provided in the past. To achieve that objective and to expand the future role of the program in fulfilling its broad mission will require the continued effort and diligence which has been the hallmark of the program for the past 25 years.